

## Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 0340

EO 11652 GDS  
TAGS OREP  
SUBJECT: CODEL BAKER REPORT ON VISIT TO BRASILIA

1. SUMMARY. SENATORS HOWARD E. BAKER JR. AND EDWIN JACOB "JAKE" GARN WERE IN BRASILIA FROM 1900 HOURS JANUARY 10 UNTIL 1330 JANUARY 11. THEY ATTENDED AN EMBASSY DINNER JANUARY 10 IN COMPANY OF BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND SENATE GUESTS. ON JANUARY 11, THEY RECIVED AN EMBASSY BRIEFING AFTER WHICH THEY WERE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT GEISEL FOR AN UNPRECEDENTED 47 MINUTES, BY FOREIGN MINISTER ANTONIO F. AZEREDO DA SILVEIRA FOR 50 MINUTES, AND ATTENDED A JOINT ONE-HOUR BRIEFING WITH CODEL REUSS BY FINANCE MINISTER MARIO HENRIQUE SIMONSEN. THEY DEPARTED FOR RIO FOLLOWING THIS BRIEFING. CODEL WAS ESPECIALLY PLEASED WITH THEIR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT GEISEL. END SUMMARY.

2. SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVAL, CODEL BAKER WERE GUESTS OF HONOR AT A DINNER HOSTED BY CHARGE WITH RANKING FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF BRAZILIAN SENATE. SENATOR BAKER'S TABLE COMPANIONS INCLUDED AMBASSADOR RAMIRO SARAIVA GUERREIRO (FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA'S DEPUTY) AND SENATOR JOSE LINDOSO, MEMBER OF ARENA'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (WHICH ON JANUARY 5 HAD BEEN TOLD BY PRESIDENT GEISEL THAT GENERAL FIGUEIREDO WOULD SUCCEED HIM).

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3. ON JANUARY 11, CODEL WAS BRIEFED BYCHARGE AND RANKING EMBOFFS BEFORE ITS 9:30 APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT GEISEL. BRIEFING CONCENTRATED ON CODEL'S INTEREST IN BRAZILIAN ATTITUDES ON PANAMA CANAL TREATIES. EMBOFFS TOLD SENATORS THAT ALTHOUGH CANAL TREATIES HAD RECEIVED MODEST PRESS CO ERAGE AND LITTLE EDITORIAL COMMENT IN BRAZIL, AND ALTHOUGH GOB HAD NOT COMMENTED PUBLICLY ON TREATIES, RAKING OFFICIALS HAD PRIVATELY EXPRESSED SATISFACTION

THAT THE TREATIES HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED SUCCESSFULLY AND IN A MANNER THAT HAD ENGAGED THE GOOD WILL OF BOTH PARTIES AND HOPED THEY WOULD BE RATIFIED. EMBOFFS AGREED WITH SENATOR BAKER'S IMPRESSION THAT BRAZILIANS WOULD NOT TAKE TO THE STREETS IF THE SENATE DID NOT RATIFY THE TREATIES (NOTING THAT FEW, IF ANY, FOREIGN ISSUES HAVE SUCH POTENTIAL IMPACT), BUT INDICATED EMBASSY'S STRONG BELIEF THAT GOB WOULD TAKE NON-RATIFICATION VERY MUCH INTO ACCOUNT IN EVALUATING GOOD FAITH AND CREDIBILITY OF USG IN FUTURE GOB DEALINGS WITH IT. EMBOFFS NOTED THAT WHILE IT WAS TRUE THAT GOB CONSIDERED TREATIES TO BE PRINCIPALLY OF CONCERN TO US AND EXPRESSION OF BILATERAL US-PANAMA RELATIONS, GOB ALSO CONSIDERED TREATIES TO CARRY IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR HEMISPHERE AND US RELATIONS THEREWITH, AND AFFIRMED IT IS EMBASSY'S CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT GOB BELIEVES THAT TREATIES, HAVING BEEN NEGOTIATED IN GOOD FAITH, SHOULD NOW BE RATIFIED BY BOTH COUNTRIES. EMBASSY BRIEFING ALSO DESCRIBED CURRENT GENERAL STATE OF US-BRAZIL RELATIONS.

4. FOLLOWING BRIEFING, SENATORS BAKER AND GARN WERE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT GEISEL, WITH WHOM THEY CONVERSED ALONE (EXCEPT FOR THE PRESENCE OF PRESIDENT'S INTERPRETER) FOR SOME 47 MINUTES. THIS MARKED THE FIRST TIME WITHIN THE MEMORY OF ANYONE PRESENTLY AT THIS POST THAT GEISEL HAD RECEIVED A US CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, AND LENGTH OF MEETING CAUSED SURPRISED COMMENTARY BY PALACE AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS IN LATER CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFF. FOLLOWING MEETING, CODEL MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA (REPORTED BRASILIA 0309) AND THEN JOINED CODEL REUSS FOR ONE HOUR  
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BRIEFING ON BRAZIL'S ECONOMIC SITUATION BY FINANCE MINISTER MARIO HENRIQUE SIMONSEN (SEE SEPTTEL ON CODEL REUSS). CODEL DEPARTED BRASILIA FOR RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEDIATELY AFTER THIS BRIEFING.

5. SENATOR BAKER TOLD EMBASSY HE HAD BEEN VERY IMPRESSED BY BOTH THE STRENGTH AND WARMTH OF PRESIDENT GEISEL'S PERSONALITY AND THE FRANKNESS WITH WHICH HE HAD CONDUCTED THEIR CONVERSATIO, WHICH THE SENATOR CHARACTERIZED AS OPEN, FREE-FORM, AND MATER-OF-FACT. HE SAID THAT GEISEL WAS THE MOST IMPRESSIVE CHIEF OF STATE CODEL HAD MET ON THIS TRIP, AND THAT HE WOULD SO REPORT TO PRESIDENT CARTER WITH A RECOMMENDATION THAT THE PRESIDENT SPEAK AS FRANKLY TO GEISEL AS THE LATTER HAD TO CODEL.

6. REGARDING THE CONVERSATION ITSELF, SENATOR BAKER SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN GENERAL IN NATURE AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN NOTHING OF SIGNIFICACE TO PASS ON. HE SAID GEISEL HAD TOUCHED ON QUESTION OF US INTERFERENCE IN BRAZIL'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUT WITHOUT HOSTILITY OR RECRIMINATION. MRS. CARTER'S VISIT TO BRAZIL LATE JUNE WAS MENTIONED, BUT NOT THE SECRETARY'S VISIT IN NOVEMBER, NOR DID GEISEL COMMENT ON THE SENATOR'S REFERENCE TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S FORTHCOMING VISIT.

7. WITH REGARD TO THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES, WHICH WERE THE FOCUS OF

CODEL'S INTEREST, SENATOR BAKER SAID THAT GEISEL HAD STRESSED THAT BRAZIL'S POLICY TOWARD THE CANAL DISPUTE WAS ONE OF NON-INTERFERENCE. HE SAID THAT GEISEL HAD ALSO INDICATED THAT MAINTAINING SOLIDARITY WITH A FELLOW LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY AND WITH GENERAL LATIN AMERICAN SENTIMENT ON AN ISSUE SUCH AS PANAMA WAS IMPORTANT TO BRAZIL, AND THAT BRAZIL SUPPORTED THE CONCLUSION OF A TREATY CONCERNING THE CANAL, BUT THAT THE SPECIFIC CONTENT OF THAT TREATY WAS A MATTER BETWEEN THE US AND PANAMA. (SEE BRASILIA 309 FOR FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA'S COMMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT).

8. UPON ARRIVAL IN BRAZILIA, SENATOR BAKER ASKED POLITICAL COUNSELOR WHY HE THOUGHT GEISEL HAD AGREED TO RECEIVE CODEL, EXPLAINING THAT CODEL HAD REQUESTED EMBASSY TO SEEK  
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APPOINTMENT AS MATTER OF ROUTINE BUT WITHOUT EXPECTATION IT WOULD BE GRANTED. POLCOUNS SPECULATED THAT GEISEL, WHO IS IN LAST 15 MONTHS OF HIS TERM, WANTED TO ESTABLISH THE BASIS FOR A CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HIMSELF AND, PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY, HIS SUCCESSOR -- WHOSE TERM WOULD END IN 1985 -- WITH THE SENATOR IN HIS CAPACITY AS REPUBLICAN LEADER IN THE SENATE AND POTENTIAL REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY IN 1980. CHARGE SUPPORTED THIS IN LATER CONVERSATION.

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